

1. (*Previously Presented*) A method, comprising:

receiving, by a first communication device at different times, a first input signal associated with a first virtual touch and a second input signal associated with a second virtual touch, the first communication device including a first user-interface member, a second user-interface member, and an actuator, whereby the first and second virtual touches originate from a second communication device operated by a user to communicate the first and second virtual touches to the first communication device;

outputting, at the first communication device, a request to initiate a contact with the first user-interface member when the first virtual touch is received and a second request to initiate a contact with the second user-interface member when the second virtual touch is received;

receiving the contact; and

providing a control signal to the actuator in response to the contact, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a first haptic effect associated with the first virtual touch when the first virtual touch is received and a second haptic effect associated with the second virtual touch when the second virtual touch is received.

2. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 1 further comprising extracting a haptic code from the first input signal, the control signal being based at least in part on the haptic code.

3. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 1 wherein the first user-interface member includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

4. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 1 wherein the first virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

5. (*Previously Presented*) A method for generating a virtual touch at a first communication device that includes a plurality of user-interface members, the method comprising:

receiving a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal at the first communication device, wherein the virtual touch indicator indicates a particular one of the plurality of user-interface members to be contacted by an operator of the first communication device to receive the virtual touch, whereby the virtual touch signal originates from a second communication device operated by a user to communicate the virtual touch to the first communication device;

performing an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator on the first communication device; and

outputting a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to an actuator coupled to the first communication device after performing the initialization.

6. (***Previously Presented***) The method of claim 5, wherein the actuator is configured to output a haptic effect to the particular one of the plurality of user-interface members when the virtual touch indicator and the virtual touch signal is received.

7. (***Previously Presented***) The method of claim 6 wherein the plurality of user-interface members includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

8. (***Previously Presented***) The method of claim 5 wherein the initialization includes outputting a request to initiate a contact with the particular one of the plurality of user-interface members.

9. (***Original***) The method of claim 5 wherein the virtual touch signal is associated with a manipulation of a remote user-interface member.

10. (***Currently Amended***) A tangible non-transitory computer-readable storage medium containing executable instructions which cause a data processing system to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving, by a first communication device at different times, a first input signal associated with a first virtual and a second input signal associated with a second virtual

touch, the first communication device including a first user-interface member, a second user-interface member, and an actuator, whereby the first and second virtual touches originate from a second communication device operated by a user to communicate the first and second virtual touches to the first communication device;

outputting, at the first communication device, a request to initiate a contact with the first user-interface member when the first virtual touch is received and a second request to initiate a contact with the second user-interface member when the second virtual touch is received;

receiving the contact; and

providing a control signal in response to the contact, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a first haptic effect associated with the first virtual touch when the first virtual touch is received and a second haptic effect associated with the second virtual touch when the second virtual touch is received.

11. (*Currently Amended*) The ~~tangible non-transitory~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 10 further comprising extracting a haptic code from the first input signal, the control signal being based at least in part on the haptic code.

12. (*Currently Amended*) The ~~tangible non-transitory~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 10 wherein the first virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

13. (*Currently Amended*) A ~~tangible non-transitory~~ computer-readable storage medium containing executable instructions which cause a data processing system to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal at a first communication device, wherein the first communication device includes a plurality of user-interface members, and wherein the virtual touch indicator indicates a particular one of the plurality of user-interface members to be contacted by an operator of the first communication device to receive the virtual touch, whereby the virtual touch signal originates from a

second communication device operated by a user to communicate the virtual touch to the first communication device;

performing an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator on the first communication device; and

outputting a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to an actuator after performing the initialization.

14. (*Currently Amended*) The ~~tangible non-transitory~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the actuator is configured to output a haptic effect to when a contact with the particular one of the plurality of user-interface members is received.

15. (*Currently Amended*) The ~~tangible non-transitory~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 14 wherein the particular one of the plurality of user-interface members includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

16. (*Currently Amended*) The ~~tangible non-transitory~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the initialization includes outputting a request to initiate a contact with the particular one of the plurality of user-interface members.

17 - 18. (*Canceled*)

19. (*Previously Presented*) An apparatus, comprising:

a first user-interface member coupled to a body and a second user-interface member coupled to the body;

a processor;

an actuator coupled to the body and in communication with the processor; and

a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing instructions configuring the processor to:

receive, at different times, a first input signal associated with a first virtual touch and a second input signal associated with a second virtual touch at the

apparatus, whereby the first and second virtual touches originate from a second apparatus operated by a user to communicate the first and second virtual touches to the apparatus;

output a request to initiate a contact with the first user-interface member when the first virtual touch is received and a second request to initiate a contact with the second user-interface member when the second virtual touch is received;

receive an indication that the contact was made; and

provide a control signal to the actuator in response to the contact, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a first haptic effect when the first virtual touch is received and a second haptic effect associated with the second virtual touch when the second virtual touch is received.

20. (*Original*) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the body is included in a handheld communication device.

21. (*Original*) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the handheld communication device includes one of a cellular phone, a satellite phone, a cordless phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a two-way radio, a portable computer, a game console controller, a personal gaming device, and an MP3 player.

22. (*Previously Presented*) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the first user-interface member includes at least one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

23. (*Previously Presented*) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

24. (*Previously Presented*) An apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of user-interface members;

a processor;

an actuator coupled to at least one of the plurality of user-interface members and in communication with the processor; and

 a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing instructions configuring the processor to:

 receive a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal, wherein the virtual touch indicator indicates a particular one of the plurality of user-interface members to be contacted by an operator of the first communication device to receive the virtual touch, whereby the virtual touch signal originates from a second apparatus operated by a user to communicate the virtual touch to the apparatus;

 perform an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator; and
 output a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to the actuator after performing the initialization.

25. (*Previously Presented*) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the plurality of user-interface members are coupled to a handheld communication device.

26. (*Original*) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the handheld communication device includes one of a cellular phone, a satellite phone, a cordless phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a two-way radio, a portable computer, a game console controller, a personal gaming device, and an MP3 player.

27. (*Previously Presented*) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the plurality of user-interface members includes at least one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

28. (*Original*) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the virtual touch signal is associated with a manipulation of a remote user-interface member.

29. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 5 wherein the virtual touch indicator is one or more of a haptic code or a message.

30. (*Currently Amended*) The ~~tangible non-transitory~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the virtual touch indicator is one or more of a haptic code or a message.